**Forest coverage area**

1067. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the area of forest coverage in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that large scale deforestation is taking place in some States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The State-wise forest cover in the country as per 2003 assessment made by Forest Survey of India is given as under:

(Area in $km^2$)

| States/UT | 2003 Assessment |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 44,419 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 68,019 |
| Assam | 27,826 |
| Bihar | 5,558 |
| Chhattisgarh | 55,998 |
| Delhi | 170 |
| Goa | 2,156 |
| Gujarat | 14,946 |
| Haryana | 1,517 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 14,353 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 21,267 |
| Jharkhand | 22,716 |
| Karnataka | 36,449 |
| Kerala | 15,577 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 76,429 |
| Maharashtra | 46,865 |
| Manipur | 17,219 |
| Meghalaya | 16,839 |
| Mizoram | 18,430 |
| Nagaland | 13,609 |
| Orissa | 48,366 |
| Punjab | 1,580 |
| Rajasthan | 15,826 |

| States/UT | 2003 Assessment |
|---|---|
| Sikkim | 3,262 |
| Tamil Nadu | 22,643 |
| Tripura | 8,093 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 14,118 |
| Uttaranchal | 24,465 |
| West Bengal | 12,343 |
| Andaman & Nicobar | 6,964 |
| Chandigarh | 15 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 225 |
| Daman & Diu | 8 |
| Lakshdweep | 23 |
| Pondicherry | 40 |
| TOTAL : | 678,333 |

(b) to (d) No report regarding large scale deforestation has been received by this Ministry. However, instances of felling of trees do take place, and in all such cases, action is taken by respective State/UT Government as per existing Acts/Rules.

**Forest clearance for Irrigation Projects**

1068. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of six irrigation projects whose applications have been rejected on lack of forest clearance in 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the names of 26 irrigation proposals which have been given permission for forest clearance in 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(c) the steps would be taken to assess some approvals on a comparatively fast and rapid pace;

(d) whether a review would be done of all such clearances given for irrigation projects;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of the "Fast-Track-No-Failure" system for rapid environmental clearances operating since 2005-06; and

(g) the steps proposed to stop this Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Two Irrigation projects have been rejected during 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, the names of 6 Irrigation projects, which were rejected during 01.08.2004 to 31.07.2006 on merits, are being ascertained from the concerned State Governments and will be placed before the House in due course of time.